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MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

14 - 18 April 1975

Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Geneva, Switzerland

14-18 April 1975

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Introduction and Worship

The meeting convened at 9.30 on Monday, 14 April 1975. Dr Thomas and Miss Webb shared the chairing of the meeting.

For its opening worship the Executive Committee joined in a Communion service, held in the chapel of the Ecumenical Centre, led by Dr Marshall, with a meditation given by Dr Thomas. Worship at the beginning of subsequent sessions was led by Mrs Wesonga, Mr Faune, Prof. Sabev and the Chairman, and the closing worship by Miss Webb.

On the evening of Thursday, 17 April, members of the WCC staff entertained the Executive Committee, together with representatives of three world confessional families and a number of guests from local churches, to a reception and dinner in the Ecumenical Centre.

B. Roll call

The General Secretary called the roll of those present, presenting apologies from His Holiness Patriarch German, Bishop Hanns Lilje, Dr John Coventry Smith, the Rt Rev. A.H. Zulu and His Eminence Metropolitan Meliton.

C. Membership of the Committee

The Chairman said that Metropolitan Emilianos, who was present as a Consultant, would represent Metropolitan Meliton, and that Archimandrite Kirill, also present as a Consultant, would represent Metropolitan Nikodim until his arrival on the evening of 15 April. This representation would carry all the privileges of membership except the right to vote.

D. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held in West Berlin on 6 August 1974, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary, in presenting his report, said that although it was eight months since the meeting of the Central Committee in Berlin, the Officers had met in January and taken a number of decisions. He introduced the business of the meeting by reporting on the on-going work of the Council and indicating some of the tasks remitted by the Central Committee on which the Executive would have to work.

a. Dr Potter first reported on a number of important meetings and visits which had taken place since August. He had taken personal greetings to the Waldensian Church on the celebration of its 800th anniversary. The Methodist Conference and the Waldensian Synod had both met and come to firm agreements about union. He had also visited the Taizé Council of Youth, attended by 40,000 young people from all over the world. A Consultation on Human Rights was held in St Pölten, Austria, in October. Fifteen Ulama from Saudi Arabia had visited the World Council and had shown great interest in dialogue and common concern for Jerusalem. In November, the WCC was one of four non-governmental organizations invited to address the World Food Conference in Rome, and the address given by Dr Potter had been used in various quarters. A second meeting on development, sponsored by CCPD and CICARWS, had been held in Montreux in December to chart new directions in the task of development while reaffirming the convictions on social justice, self-reliance and economic growth of the first meeting. Dr Payne and Dr Potter had been invited, together with many leading figures in the WCC, to the enthronement of the new Archbishop of Canterbury. The General Secretary noted that Dr Coggan had expressed a strong desire to participate fully in the life of the ecumenical movement, both in Britain and through the WCC, and would be meeting the Canadian Primate and the Presiding Bishop of the USA to discuss ways of giving greater support to the WCC.

b. In reporting on relations with the Roman Catholic Church, Dr Potter referred particularly to the World Consultation on Laity Formation, sponsored jointly by the WCC and Roman Catholic Church, and to the Synod of Bishops held in October. Five members of WCC staff had attended the Synod and participated in conversations with the bishops and Secretariats and a meeting with the Union of Superiors General. The General Secretary had addressed a meeting of the bishops. The bishops saw the great importance for the Church's mission today of recognizing local churches and for them to come to terms with the culture of their countries.

c. The WCC had given particular attention to a number of areas of tension. Mrs Cho had been invited to join a small delegation organized by the Christian Conference of Asia to visit the Philippines and Korea. The Christian Council of Korea had since strongly appealed for a WCC visit. Two

members of staff had recently visited Taiwan and possibilities may be opening up for future relationships with the churches there. There had been a useful meeting of the Board of the Fund for Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Indochina and, after group visits to different parts of the area, the Indochina Forum had met under the chairmanship of Mr Itty. Visits to the Middle East included those by the staff of CCIA, and by Mr Mitton to Iraq and Kurdish areas. The Central Committee statement on Cyprus had been followed up by conversations with Archbishop Makarios and two visits by Dr J.B. Taylor to churches and mosques in the island. In Africa there had been staff visits and consultations with church leaders in Angola and Mozambique, and the General Secretary had issued a statement on the imprisonment of Mr Sithole in Rhodesia. Staff had also visited Cuban churches, and Mr Chipenda had attended the first Indian Parliament of the Southern Cone of Latin America. Bishop Frenz of Chile had visited Geneva in October to receive the Nansen Medal, and given a tremendous testimony of faith in explaining his stand for political prisoners and refugees. The Government of Uruguay had issued an extraordinary document attacking the churches and the WCC, and the Council had sent a full statement to the Government. In Europe, the CWME meeting in Portugal had been of great support to the Christian community there. A public appeal had been made to the WCC in connection with the Vins case in the USSR. The General Secretary had written to the authorities asking for an open and fair trial and legal assistance for Mr Vins, but had received no reply. Finally the Officers had made a statement.

d. Turning to the relations of the WCC with its member churches, the General Secretary referred to the extensive correspondence conducted by Dr Brash. The Staff Travel Group was also helping staff to make more concerted contact with the churches. In October a meeting with Latin American member churches had been organized by Dr Brash and Mr Castro. A series of consultations with Orthodox churches had been arranged by Prof. Bria, and Dr Vischer had visited the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Synod on Pan-Christian Affairs. There was also a consultation in Crete in March of Orthodox theologians based on Sections II and V of the forthcoming Assembly. There would be a team visit to the USSR for pre-Assembly consultation with representatives of member churches in Eastern Europe, and Dr Potter would visit several East European countries in the next months. The General Secretary also spoke of relations with regional and national councils of churches and the plans for a revised edition of the Directory of Christian Councils.

e. While preparations for the Assembly had been the staff's main preoccupation, work had continued on programme coordination and planning. CCPD and CICARWS were seeing how they could work more closely in such matters as finance. The Personnel and Payroll Offices had recently been combined. The new publication, <u>One World</u>, had been widely acclaimed and used.

f. The General Secretary then outlined the tasks before the Executive Committee.

3. DISCUSSION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

A number of questions were raised about matters mentioned in the General Secretary's presentation.

Mrs Cho spoke of her visit to the Philippines and Korea. The group had consisted of three CCA Officers, a representative of the NCCC USA, and herself representing the WCC. In the Philippines the government attitude had been open and President Marcos had received the group. He had promised to examine the situation of political detainees, and at Christmas 600 prisoners, including some Christian leaders, were released. The group had visited some prisons and had private talks with Christian prisoners. The situation had been different in Korea, where the group had been received by the Vice Minister of Education and Information. They had not been allowed to visit prisons but had met the families of some prisoners.

Dr Brash said that contacts with member churches had increased and churches were beginning to discuss matters of concern with the WCC. He drew attention to figures on church giving to the WCC General and Assembly Budgets, and also listed some of the recent economies in the WCC headquarters. He reported that the General Secretary had made a number of changes in staff regulations but that none affected the wording of the rules.

Metropolitan Emilianos spoke appreciatively of the Orthodox consultations in Bucharest and Crete at which representatives of the Orthodox churches had considered how they could contribute more to the work of Assembly Sections. There had been much self-criticism of their inertia and passive attitude. He thought the WCC should encourage such meetings in the future. Archimandrite Kirill felt that the recent Orthodox consultations had shown that the WCC was very open to criticism from the Orthodox side.

Mr Castro referred to the value of the meeting with Latin American member churches at which delegates had discussed their participation in the ecumenical movement.

4. REPORTS ON UNITS AND DEPARTMENTS

In addition to the reports previously circulated to the Committee, members of staff highlighted a number of issues facing their unit or department.

A. Unit I

Dr Vischer mentioned particularly the report on baptism, the eucharist and ministry which had emerged from the Faith and

Order Commission meeting in Accra. Churches had been asked to what extent these texts expressed theological agreement. It was hoped to have their replies by April or May 1976. Dr Vischer also spoke of his visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the meeting in Crete which had discussed the work of Sections II and V. It had been suggested that there should be a similar meeting after the Assembly to consider its implications.

Dr Abrecht spoke of the frustrating experience of the four WCC representatives at the World Population Conference in Bucharest in August 1974, due to lack of cooperation among church groups.

Mr Castro pointed out that the issues of evangelism were now being discussed everywhere in the life of the churches. He also asked that the future mandate of the Christian Medical Commission be included in the agenda of the Assembly. Dr Samartha spoke of the small exploratory consultation on ideologies to be held in May, which it was hoped would help the discussion in Section III.

B. Unit II

Mr Itty spoke particularly of the situation in Ethiopia where it was becoming increasingly important to look at the many issues involved in a concerted way in Unit II. He also reported that the Central Committee document on threats to survival had become a major concern among many churches, focusing on the new international order, new styles of life, support to the poor in their struggle for development, and questions of human rights.

C. Unit III

Dr Kennedy reported on the consultation on "critical consciousness"; a seminar held in September with the participation of Dr Illich and Prof. Freire; and a conference on the Churches' Pastoral Care of those Confronted with Abortion.

D. Communication

Mr Hilke said that the WCC had continued to receive positive reactions to its policy of open communication in WCC meetings and was trying to let press attend smaller meetings. He referred to the agreement with the West German press agency, EPD, to take over ecumenical news reporting from the WCC, and hoped that this would serve as a model in other countries where similar agreements could be reached. He reported on the overwhelmingly positive response to the new monthly magazine, One World. There were now 4,500-5,000 subscribers and it was hoped to reach the target of 10,000 by the end of the year. He pointed out the serious effect on the magazine's budget of the changes in the dollar exchange rate.

E. Ecumenical Institute

Prof. Mbiti reported briefly on the work of Bossey and particularly the last session of the Graduate School, which had studied the Assembly theme. This had led to emphases on questions of liberation, the unity of the Church and mankind, dialogue, spirituality, community and Bible study. The question of the relationship between the Institute and WCC headquarters had been raised and a staff Bossey Advisory Group had discussed issues relating to different parts of the World Council's work.

F. New York office

Mr Long reported on the work of the New York office, which had concentrated on interpreting the Assembly and helping the US churches to participate. He had spent more than 40% of his time travelling. A meeting for the preparation of North American delegates would be held shortly. A second major emphasis had been on plans for the reorganization of the New York office programme. It was accepted that the New York office and the US Conference for the WCC had responsibility for: interpretation of WCC policies in the USA and feedback to WCC committees; liaison with the NCCC USA; fund-raising and administration for the WCC in the USA; assistance to Geneva staff in service of unit programmes and special projects; distribution and sale of WCC publications in North America; press relations; staff liaison with non-member groups in the USA; development of new financial and human resources for the WCC in North America, and help to staff visiting the USA. A plan would be brought to the Executive Committee for approval. Dr John Coventry Smith and Mr Long had arranged for the first time in 12 years for a meeting of the heads of the communions in the USA with the President. There had been great openness on the part of the administration to discuss common concerns and the meeting opened opportunities for future relations with the Government. Although two major donors had had to reduce their contributions, other churches had substantially increased their support and it was hoped that there would be an improvement in 1976 and 1977.

5. FIFTH ASSEMBLY

A. General preparations

Mr Gill reported that preparations were well under way, thanks particularly to the enthusiasm and commitment of the Kenyan churches and the help of AACC and of the Government of Kenya. In general the programme plans already made for Jakarta remained, but major changes had of course been necessary in the practical field.

B. Local arrangements in Nairobi

The sponsoring body, the member churches in Kenya, had set up a Local Arrangements Committee (which included churches and organizations not officially associated with the WCC) and a local coordinator, Mr Kareithi Munuhe, had been appointed. Later in the meeting Mr Munuhe was welcomed by the Executive Committee and brought greetings from the committee in Nairobi. He assured the meeting that arrangements were well in hand. Mr Gill said it had been hoped to use the University but this had proved impossible and delegates would be accommodated in hotels, mostly in double rooms. Some 350 people, mainly staff, would be housed in the Science Teachers' Training College. Most hotels were within walking distance of the Conference Centre. The Conference Centre had excellent facilities, with a plenary hall holding 4,000, plenty of rooms for committees and other small groups, good office space, and rooms for four of the six Sections, the other two being accommodated in the nearby City Hall. The only problem was the difficulty of showing films in the plenary presentations because of the shape of the hall, but an extensive film programme was planned for other places.

C. "Uppsala to Nairobi"

Mr Johnson reported that the English and German versions would be published by the middle of May and the French shortly thereafter. There would be chapters on the General Secretariat and programmes directly related to it, Faith and Witness, Justice and Service, Education and Renewal, Communication, and Finance, with an introduction by the Chairman and preface by the General Secretary.

D. Revised programme and daily time schedule

Mr Gill outlined a number of changes in the proposed programme and timetable. There was a reduction in the number of plenary sessions compared with Uppsala. He drew attention to the small Work Groups in which all participants would discuss the main theme, mostly through Bible study.

E. Plenary presentations

In introducing proposals for the plenary presentations, Mr Gill said he had just received a proposal for the African presentation. He also asked for suggestions for a speaker for the 7th presentation, "From shackles of domination and oppression", since President Nyerere was unable to accept the invitation.

F. Hearings

Mr Gill referred to the Annotated Agenda for Hearings which had been sent to committee members. This set out the general purpose and procedure for the Hearings together with suggestions for the specific themes to be covered by the

sub-groups of each Hearing. The Annotated Agenda was referred to the Sub-Committee on Priorities for detailed discussion. At a later session Bishop Nichols reported that the Sub-Committee recommended, and it was agreed by the Executive, that

i. the Introduction to the Annotated Agenda for Hearings be redrafted, setting forth clearly the purpose of Hearings, their relationship to the Programme Guidelines Committee, their significance in the context of the Assembly decision-making process, as well as other necessary information regarding the proceedings;

ii. a specific reference be included in the Introduction to the fact that Hearings shall have the right to register an opinion about specific programme proposals and to formulate a consensus among participants, and pass such information on to the Programme Guidelines Committee for consideration.

G. Committees

Mr Gill pointed out that it was planned that committees would involve only about 200 delegates and the others would have time for the various "fringe activities". Dr Visser 't Hooft expressed his deep concern about the small number of committee members. This would lead to delegates being divided into decision-makers and passive participants. Lord March stressed the importance of the openness of meetings. Committees should either be larger or small ones with a number of open hearings. The Chairman pointed to a third possibility of enlarging committees and then subdividing into small groups. The General Secretary said that the pattern of previous Assemblies had been changed in order to have a more coordinated approach to future programmes. All participants would be involved in the Work Groups and Sections. However, he felt sure that some committees should be enlarged, and suggested that there should be some hearings for Policy Reference Committees I and II and for the Finance Committee. Mr Gill said it would be possible to add a third Policy Reference Committee and to subdivide the work of Policy Reference Committee I, thus increasing the numbers involved. The matter was referred to the General Secretary for further study.

H. Programme Guidelines Committee

Mr Gill reminded the Executive that reports from Hearings would be referred to the Programme Guidelines Committee. The composition of and preparation for this committee was referred to the Sub-Committee on Priorities, which reported to a later session of the Executive as follows:

a. The Central Committee at Berlin had authorized the Executive Committee to appoint at its meeting in April 1975

up to 50% of the membership of the Programme Guidelines Committee. Due to various reasons, principally the fact that delegate lists were still incomplete, it had not been possible to take final action on this recommendation. It was therefore recommended:

i. that the General Secretary, in consultation with the other Officers, prepare a list of nominees for circulation and final approval by members of the Executive Committee;

ii. that the preliminary list of proposals be circulated to members of the Executive Committee for comment and further suggestions;

iii. that after this a final list would then be submitted for approval; this process to be concluded if possible by July 1975.

b. The Central Committee at Berlin had stressed that reflection about priorities for the period after Nairobi should begin well before the Assembly. It was therefore recommended:

i. that the outgoing Executive Committee prepare a report on urgent concerns regarding future programme for consideration by the Programme Guidelines Committee;

ii. that the General Secretary prepare background material and suggestions for this task to the November 1975 meeting of the Executive Committee.

c. After discussion it was further recommended:

that the brief for the Programme Guidelines Committee be revised to read as follows:

"It will assume the structures the WCC decided upon at Addis Ababa, and produce its draft directives under the headings of the General Secretariat and the three Programme Units. This does not exclude the possibility of proposing changes to be made in the future if the Committee so desires."

The Executive Committee agreed to the above recommendations.

I. Worship

Dr Raiser reported on the meeting of the Assembly Worship Committee late last year and presented the plans based on its recommendations. The basis of all daily worship would be a brochure published as an issue of Risk and the new edition of Cantate Domino. The opening worship was planned in three parts, the first to be the responsibility of the Kenyan host churches and the other two to be finalized in

Geneva on the basis of Executive Committee comments. It was expected that a senior member of the Kenya Government would attend the opening celebration and that the President would address a later session of the Assembly. It was proposed to hold two Eucharist services, an "open" service to be conducted jointly by the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Kenya, and a celebration for which the Orthodox Church of Kenya would be responsible. Both Eucharists would be preceded by a "Service of Anticipation". On Sunday, 30 November, an Advent Rally was being planned by the local committee, which had asked for advice on the speakers to be invited. A number of suggestions were made on arrangements and possible preachers and speakers.

J. Presentation of financial situation

The General Secretary asked how member churches could be helped to see their responsibility not only to decide on programmes but to make such programmes financially possible. These two aspects must be closely related in decisions on the future shape of the WCC. Uppsala to Nairobi would contain the Finance Committee's report, supported by charts. At the Assembly itself the General Secretary's report and the Finance report would be related, but he wondered whether he should speak more directly to the Assembly about relating programme decisions to financial commitment. How could delegates be helped to increase understanding and support for the WCC at all levels in their churches? Would it be possible for some staff to make themselves available to meet delegates and answer their questions? Mr Johnson supported this latter suggestion and also the idea of providing a brochure which would answer some basic questions about the nature and work of the WCC, thus freeing the General Secretary to bring his concerns directly into focus. Lord March hoped that the General Secretary would place finance squarely in the context of content and programme. He thought it would be better if the Finance report came later in the business of the Assembly and the General Secretary's report include as much as possible on this subject. He also suggested that there should be a joint hearing between the Finance Committee and the Programme Guidelines Committee. Dr Lochman raised the question of whether this type of Assembly would be possible in the future and, if not, what type of ecumenical activity there should be. Bishop Nichols replied that if the WCC reached the point where it could no longer hold an Assembly representing the member churches it would have lost its potency.

K. Sections

At a later session Dr Lochman, reporting for the Sub-Committee on Section Annotated Agendas, said that the sub-committee had responded with general approval to the annotated agenda drafts but had offered a number of criticisms to be taken into account in the final revision of the

document. Section I seemed to lack a clear christological focus and needed a greater element of joy in its presentation. There should be more reference to the context in which Christ is confessed today and an attempt made to overcome the current polarization in the ecumenical movement. Section II required some spelling out of the relationship between the unity of the Church and the unity of mankind. Recent achievements in the quest for unity should be specified more fully and there should be some reference to conciliarity in the document. For Section III the ecclesiological foundation required fuller explication and the issue of Christ-centredness should be posed for discussion without necessarily using the debatable term "syncretism". Section IV: a very significant debate had taken place in the committee regarding the focus of this draft on liberation rather than community. This onesidedness required some correction, as did the excessively negative picture of traditional education presented in the document. Section V focused on three matters: racism, women and human rights. The rationale for choosing these three required clearer statement, and the possibility of delegates introducing a consideration of other related issues (e.g. international power structures, oppressive structures in traditional and modern urban societies) should be made clear. The treatment of racism was too militant in tone and the choice of burning issues under this heading too restricted. Under human rights the reference to religious liberty needed strengthening. For Section VI there had been little time left for discussion, but it appeared that the issue of power required further coordination between Sections V and VI.

The Executive Committee received the report and requested Dr Lochman to assist in the final redrafting of the document.

L. Participants

A number of problems relating to participants were referred to a sub-committee. At a later session Dr Marshall introduced the report of the sub-committee.

a. Delegations not conforming to required patterns

The sub-committee recommended, and the Executive Committee agreed:

i. that the delegations of the following churches be approved:

Coptic Orthodox Church
Reformed Church of Hungary
Romanian Orthodox Church
Union of Evangelical Christian Baptists of USSR
Armenian Apostolic Church, Lebanon

ii. that in the cases of the Church of the Province of the West Indies, and the Church of the Brethren, USA, the matter of the shape of the delegations be subject to further correspondence.

b. 15% proposals

The sub-committee recommended, and the Executive Committee agreed:

i. that Mrs Lilian Munyama (United Church of Zambia), Mr Kayoka Luendu (youth, Eglise du Christ au Zaïre, Communauté Lumière), and Mr John Ronas (Mission Covenant Church of Sweden) be proposed to their respective churches under the 15% procedures, as additional delegates;

ii. that no action be taken on the Rev. Dr John H. Satterwhite;

iii. that no action be taken on requests from Associate member churches for a second fraternal delegate, or for a voting delegate under the 15% procedures;

iv. that the Eglise évangélique du Gabon be authorized to substitute Monsieur Joel Obiang Ondo (youth) for Monsieur Boulingui, previously proposed under 15% procedures;

v. that any further decisions required on 15% procedures be taken by the Officers.

Metropolitan Nikodim complained that only two persons from Eastern Europe had been selected under the 15% procedure. The Chairman pointed out that very few names had been received from this area.

c. Advisers

The sub-committee recommended, and the Executive Committee agreed that the following be approved as Advisers:

i. Rev. Hector Mendez (Cuba, Presbyterian) - Youth adviser

ii. Mr Manos Sinham (Sri Lanka) - Youth adviser

iii. A young American woman from an ethnic minority group to be appointed by the Officers as a Youth adviser

iv. Dr John Howard Yoder (USA, Mennonite) - Biblical scholar, powerful exponent of non-violence as Christian imperative

v. Rev. Ilse Beyer (Austria, Evangelical Church)

vi. Dr Sylvia Talbot (Guyana, AME Church)

vii. Dr Krister Stendahl (Sweden, Lutheran)

It was noted that with the 10 Roman Catholic advisers now being negotiated this brings the total number to 114 out of a total of 120. Some advisers related to the Spirituality Workshop still have to be added, as well as additional speakers not yet chosen. It was also noted that some members of the sub-committee and of the Executive expressed their opinion that the numbers of advisers from Africa, the Socialist countries, and certain confessional families in Britain were insufficient. The sub-committee suggested that in filling any final vacancies the staff give first consideration to persons in these categories. Other advisers should be appointed by the Officers, and the Executive Committee informed.

d. Guests

The sub-committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed:

i. that Dr David Du Plessis be invited as a guest to the Assembly;

ii. that four or five places in the "guests" category be made available at the discretion of the General Secretary to representatives of agencies, including foundations, which have shown interest in and support for the World Council.

6. PUBLIC ISSUES

A. Southern Africa

Mr Chipenda reported on important events in Southern Africa since the Central Committee. The policy of decolonization had continued in Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Angola and liberation movements had shown great dignity and political responsibility. There had been a number of WCC staff visits to the area: Mr Randriamamonjy had been in Mozambique; Mr Reuschle in Guinea Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands; Mr Chipenda in Angola. CICARWS had held a one-day consultation with WCC related donor agencies to begin to set up a policy for relations with the churches and governments of the newly independent nations and the handling of projects. Mr Chipenda also referred to the situation in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The expropriation of the Alice Seminary illustrated the increasing struggle in South Africa between Church and state. Mr Chipenda suggested that the Executive ask Assembly participants to show solidarity with the oppressed Africans by not visiting South Africa in connection with the Assembly.

The General Secretary pointed out that this proposal was in the spirit of Bishop Zulu's intervention in 1972 when he emphasized the disservice done to Africans by migration and tourism to South Africa. Should we encourage encounters

between Christians in South Africa if they are not able to speak and act freely? After some discussion, it was agreed that the following group be asked to make a proposal on this subject: Dr Rossel (convener), Pastor Bokeleale and Mr Johnson.

At a later session the sub-committee presented a possible draft of such a statement. There followed an extensive discussion which revealed a wide difference of views on both the content and procedure for such a message, both in the Executive and among staff, but it was felt that the issue of the solidarity of Assembly participants was important. It was finally agreed that the whole matter of sending such a communication to participants be referred to the General Secretary to clarify with staff, in the light of the discussion, and to the Officers for any action.

B. Middle East

Fr Tsetsis spoke of the situation in the Middle East, pointing out that the satisfaction expressed by the Central Committee in Berlin had been countered by a series of sad events and the region could soon become explosive. There was no unanimity in the WCC fellowship about this complex problem, some of the churches supporting Israel and others the Arab countries. The Middle East Task Force had agreed with the suggestion of the Middle East Council of Churches that a team should go to the area to get a fresh balanced view of the situation.

Metropolitan Nikodim asked whether WCC representatives would be able to have completely free meetings in territories occupied by Israel and whether they proposed to meet representatives of the PLO, particularly since this organization had now won international recognition. Fr Tsetsis replied that discussions would be free and that it was the intention to meet with political figures in Israel, the Arab states and PLO representatives, as well as WCC member churches and Christians in the area.

After further discussion, the Executive Committee agreed to approve the proposal of a team visit to the Middle East.

Mr Niilus reported briefly on the visit of Mr Mitton, Emergency Officer of CICARWS, to Iraq to arrange for more effective humanitarian work among the Kurds. The WCC was the only international organization the Iraqi authorities had invited to observe conditions in situ. Contacts had also been made with Christians in Iran. A further visit was planned.

C. Cyprus

Fr Tsetsis reported that in response to the WCC appeal for $100,000 for refugees in Cyprus almost $350,000 had been

raised. Archbishop Makarios had asked him to convey his deep appreciation to the WCC for this help. Fr Tsetsis had visited refugee camps, which were extremely well run. Dr J.B. Taylor had also visited Cyprus to investigate complaints from the Greeks about the conversion of churches into mosques, and from the Turks about the treatment of mosques in the Greek sector. A statement on Cyprus was proposed. After some discussion, the document was referred back for redrafting. At a later session, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the revised statement as follows:

> The Executive Committee of the WCC meeting in Geneva (14-18 April 1975) welcomes the announcement by the United Nations of the resumption of direct talks between the representatives of the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus, on the initiative and with the participation of the Secretary General of the United Nations in Vienna on 28 April. The resumption of these talks is an urgently needed step towards solving the complex problems in Cyprus with their tragic and dangerous dimensions. The Executive Committee expresses the hope that these talks will lead to mutual respect and cooperation between the two communities.
>
> The Executive Committee urges especially in the context of the plans for talks between the two communities that all parties directly or indirectly involved strictly refrain from seeking to impose any solution which does not take full account of the real will and desire of the Cypriot people themselves.
>
> Notwithstanding the hoped for long-term benefits of the Vienna talks, the Executive Committee, reiterating the substance of the statements made by the WCC Central Committee (Berlin, August 1974), strongly urges the implementation of the UN General Assembly's resolution No. 3212 requesting the speedy withdrawal of all foreign armed forces from the Republic of Cyprus, in the framework of its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Executive Committee notes with deep regret that, though five months have elapsed since the unanimous adoption of the resolution by the UN, no effort has been made towards its implementation.
>
> The Executive Committee strongly urges all parties concerned to undertake the necessary steps which would effectively enable the early and safe return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes. The Executive Committee affirms that refugees and uprooted people should not be used as pawns in negotiations or become the object of political exploitation.

D. Indochina

Mr Epps introduced a draft statement on Indochina which attempted to speak to the changed situation on the basis of decisions taken by the Central Committee. It drew special attention to the need to establish peace along the lines of the Paris agreement; the misuse of human beings as pawns in the war, and the need for the churches to continue support through the Fund for Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Indochina and other WCC programmes. Some information not generally available had been added to indicate our concerns.

Mrs Webb said that the CICARWS appeal for $1 million had been met by $1,200,000 so far and funds were still coming in; $700,000 had been spent largely on material aid to all parts of South Vietnam. Two tons of medical supplies and food had been airlifted and was being distributed by the Government of South Vietnam and the PRG Red Cross. Asian Christian Service was still operating with its whole staff and working with seven Vietnamese groups. Vietnam Christian Service had offered its services to the FRRI to assist their operation. There would be a request for an additional $5 million for the FRRI's work for peace in Indochina.

After discussion, the statement was referred back for redrafting.

At a later discussion, after further discussion and amendment, the statement was unanimously adopted as follows:

> In January 1973 the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches welcomed the signing at Paris of the "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam".
>
> "Peace is now a possibility for the whole of Indochina," he said, "and we thank God for it, while repenting our inability to bring a quicker end to the conflict. Our hope is that the nations of the world, both singly and jointly through the United Nations, will make every effort to support the peoples of Indochina in their search for a just peace."
>
> Though it has been grossly violated, that Accord remains the essential basis for the final cessation of hostilities and lasting peace. It recognized what the WCC has repeatedly affirmed since 1966: "the right of the Indochinese peoples to self-determination; the right of those peoples to be free from foreign military and political interference in their affairs; and the unacceptability of the human tragedy which has been thrust upon these peoples and which must be brought to an end." (WCC Central Committee 1972)

The Paris Agreement sharply de-escalated the most destructive air war ever experienced by humanity. It created a climate which allowed the conflicting parties in Laos to reach a prompt negotiated settlement. Despite the fact that hostilities have continued in South Vietnam and Cambodia, it substantially reduced the bloodshed.

Through its Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service, the WCC has long sought to channel relief to the victims of this conflict and continues to do so, both directly and in co-operation with other religious, ecumenical and secular agencies in the area. Through its Fund for Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Indochina, created in 1972, the WCC has provided a forum for representatives from various parts of Indochina to meet and discuss possible ways for reconciliation, and to promote peace efforts abroad with regard to Indochina. It also provides financial assistance for reconstruction programmes throughout the region. This February, the Fund organized the Indochina Forum in Vientiane, Laos, where a representative group from Indochina met together with representatives of Asian and other member churches of the WCC to study the changing situation and our response to it.

We have reviewed their conclusions and the reports coming in daily from people involved in WCC-supported programmes in many parts of Vietnam. On the basis of this assessment, the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Geneva, 14-18 April, 1975:

- strongly reiterates the WCC concern about the widespread violations of the Paris Agreement and appeals to the signatories to comply strictly with its provisions, especially that which calls for the restoration of the democratic liberties essential to the formation of the Third Component and the establishment of the tripartite National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord to the complete cessation of hostilities, and to ensure a lasting and stable peace;

- urges all states outside Vietnam to refrain from any military involvement or presence in South Vietnam, and encourages the United States in accordance with the terms of the Agreement to resist pressures to provide further military aid to the Saigon Government;

- notes that the majority of people have remained in their places of residence as control of territory has changed in recent weeks, and that

they are in urgent need of international assistance to enable them to resume normal life as soon as possible;

- calls upon the parties in conflict and their allies to respect the wishes of the civilian population displaced by hostilities as to where they prefer to settle, and to ensure their safety and wellbeing;
- welcomes the efforts of the Secretary General of the United Nations to mobilize and coordinate aid to war victims where they are;
- condemns the misuse of displaced civilians, especially children, for purposes of political propaganda or military advantage;
- recalls that the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War calls for orphans or children separated from their parents to be entrusted to persons of the same cultural tradition, and authorizes the reception of such children in neutral countries only for the duration of the conflict;
- calls upon the member churches to remind Christians of the dangers involved in precipitate acts arising out of overemotional responses, of the need to follow the carefully worked out procedures for intercountry adoption, and to inform them of the alternatives to adoption, including support for family reunification efforts and aid to the Vietnamese people struggling desperately and lovingly to meet the needs of their children;
- urges the member churches to support WCC efforts to meet the immediate and long-term needs of the people of Indochina through continued generous responses to the latest CICARWS emergency appeal for that area, and continued support for the Fund for Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Indochina;
- calls upon Christians to work and pray for the just peace in Indochina which alone will bring an end to this suffering which we all share with its peoples and to assist them in all possible ways to rebuild their war-torn lands.

E. Korea

Mr Koshy referred to the Berlin Central Committee statement on Korea and to the developments in the last few months in which the churches and the NCC had been deeply involved. They had issued a number of statements of profound theological significance. After a brief period of relaxation,

more draconian laws had been passed which had serious implications for the churches. Some church leaders, including the General Secretary of the NCC, had been arrested. The churches of Korea needed the support of the international Christian community and therefore the WCC planned to send a delegation there. The South Korean churches had been apprised of this initiative.

After some discussion in which a number of suggestions were made, the Executive Committee agreed to authorize a team visit to Korea.

F. Taiwan

Dr Raiser reported on his six-day visit to Taiwan with Dr Arne Sovik of the Lutheran World Federation in March. They had gone on an official invitation from the Taiwan Ecumenical Consultative Committee. They had met leaders of all the major churches and a number of government officials. The issues discussed had included WCC policy concerning China, the question of self-determination for the Taiwanese people, and ecumenical relations among churches in Taiwan. Since their visit, the death of Chiang Kai-Chek had changed the situation. The major question in conversations with the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan had been that of renewing membership in the WCC. It was agreed that the General Secretary should send another letter to the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan, expressing the hope that they would be represented in the Assembly, and a letter to the Taiwan Ecumenical Consultative Committee, enquiring whether they would like to send an observer.

G. China

The General Secretary reported that there had been many enquiries as to how the question of China could best be treated at the Assembly. Dr Visser 't Hooft reminded the Committee that the WCC had never received any definite letters from the Chinese churches withdrawing from membership so the matter was never formally reported. It was important to maintain that stance. Reference was made to many studies being conducted on the situation in China, which might be reflected in the work of the Assembly Sections, and to the contacts through visits with some Christians in China. Efforts were also being made to see if someone from China could be present at the Assembly. It was, however, agreed that due caution should be observed in relation to Christians in China.

7. PROGRAMME TO COMBAT RACISM

A. Grants from Special Fund

Mr Sjollema presented the recommendations of the PCR Executive Committee regarding the fifth allocation of grants from the Special Fund to organizations of the racially

oppressed and groups caring for the victims of racial injustice. The income for the Special Fund since the last allocations had been slightly over $\$\frac{1}{2}$ million and it was recommended that the full amount be disbursed. This sum had come mainly from groups and churches in Canada, Sweden, Holland and the Federal Republic of Germany and, to a lesser extent, the USA and Switzerland. There had also been support from the Governments of Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands. The churches in the German Democratic Republic had held an Easter collection in support of the Fund and the money raised would be channelled directly to certain liberation movements in Southern Africa. PCR had received 72 applications for grants, of which 29 were recommended for approval. The advice of National Christian Councils and experts in the countries concerned had been consulted as far as possible. Mr Sjollema pointed out that it was recommended that slightly more than half of the total amount be allocated to four movements in Southern Africa. Assistance to Mozambique, Angola and Guinea Bissau would now be more the responsibility of CICARWS and CCPD.

Lord March spoke of the dilemma in which the proposed grant to "Towards Racial Justice" (TRJ) placed him. The Church of England Synod had voted by a significant majority to reduce its contribution to the WCC in protest against some of the PCR grants, in particular that to TRJ. The British Council of Churches had a new screening committee for projects in Britain, and its five members were divided on the subject of a grant to TRJ though a majority of two to one had voted for support. Lord March himself had serious doubts about the organization's activities and aims.

Miss Webb pointed out that the BCC's Race Relations Unit itself had voted by a large majority to make another grant to TRJ.

Dr von Weizsäcker felt in a dilemma about the proposed grant to two organizations in the Federal Republic of Germany. He was happy about the Informationsstelle Südliches Afrika e.V. (ISSA) but not about the Anti-Apartheid Bewegung in Deutschland (AAB). He felt there had been insufficient consultation with the church authorities about the second body.

In reply to Lord March, Mr Sjollema said that TRJ had considerable support among black people and, while perhaps not everyone would agree with all it said, PCR wanted to support its general aims. With regard to the two groups in Germany, he pointed out that they had complementary tasks, one supplying information and documentation and the other being an action group, and had therefore decided to make a joint application. He felt that the normal screening procedures had been followed.

Dr Payne suggested that it should be made clear in the document that the descriptions had been provided by the organizations themselves and this was agreed.

The Executive Committee then voted on the list of allocations, which were unanimously agreed with the following exceptions:

i. Grants to organizations in France: 1 abstention.

ii. TRJ (UK): Lord March proposed and it was agreed (11 in favour, 4 opposed, 1 abstention) that a decision be postponed until (i) the consultation between the TRJ Collective and members of the BCC Executive has taken place, and (ii) the BCC has framed a judgment as to whether the aim, objectives and activities of TRJ are or are not consonant with point (1) of the Special Fund criteria. The Officers were empowered to make a decision after receiving such information.

iii. ISSA and AAB (Federal Republic of Germany): Dr von Weizsäcker proposed and it was agreed (12 in favour, 1 opposed, 3 abstentions) that a decision be postponed until consultation had taken place with the responsible body and the Officers be empowered to act after hearing the result of such consultation.

B. Multiple strategies

Mr Sjollema presented a paper which was a first attempt by the PCR to respond to the request of the Central Committee in Berlin for a document on multiple strategies to combat racism. He stressed that the underlying purpose of the multiple strategy approach must be the radical transformation of all systems based on racist ideologies. Within that framework, the methods will differ depending on the situation in each country, but the goal of a just society cannot be altered. He pointed out that there was no agreement yet on the social and political situation in Southern Africa and its root causes, and discussion must go on. The PCR Commission would welcome any suggestions for improving the document and would revise it in August in the light of comments received.

Pastor Langhoff felt that the present document was not acceptable. It did not give the impression that a study of the problem had been carried out and it was unfairly presented, being more a declaration of PCR's conception of multiple strategies. He asked for a study of the effects of the call for withdrawal and asked that the paper take seriously the use of reformist strategies. He referred to the situation in Denmark where the churches had no investments in South Africa but did not support the policy of withdrawal. They felt it more realistic to work for the reform of conditions of African workers.

Bishop Nichols commented that nothing the WCC had ever done had affected the secular and church community as profoundly as this programme. Every American company was now extremely sensitive to this issue and the South African Government was aware that the programme had affected its worldwide image.

He asked that in the development of the paper the theological dimension be included. The Christian reason for involvement must be kept in the centre of the programme.

Dr Rossel said he represented churches which had not accepted withdrawal but he did not take a negative attitude to the paper. The Swiss churches had no investments to withdraw but were trying to find out what could be done by a reformist strategy.

Miss Webb suggested that the churches be asked to evaluate the relative effectiveness of the different strategies. Lord March endorsed this proposal.

Dr Visser 't Hooft stressed the WCC's obligation to help the member churches in South Africa. The General Secretary asked how this could be done since there were no possibilities for any real conversations with the African churches, which are the biggest in South Africa, and staff and committee members were now banned from the country.

After further discussion the Executive Committee adopted the following resolution:

i. The Executive Committee requests the PCR, in the light of the various comments made on the paper, to prepare a revised document on Multiple Strategies to Combat Racism for consideration at the Assembly.

ii. The Committee suggests that the PCR conduct a survey to be presented to its next meeting on the decisions and actions which have been taken by the member churches and related agencies in relation both to the disinvestment resolution adopted by the WCC Central Committee (Utrecht, 1972) and the resolution to stop bank loans to South Africa by the Central Committee (West Berlin, 1974).

iii. The Committee further requests the PCR to initiate and participate in consultations with member churches and related agencies on multiple strategies and to evaluate the relative effectiveness of the strategies chosen.

8. REPORT OF THE YOUTH TASK FORCE

The General Secretary reminded the committee that he had been asked by the Berlin Central Committee to examine afresh the youth work of the WCC and bring proposals to the Executive. He had set up a Youth Working Party, under Dr Raiser with Mr Welsh as Secretary, which had been in correspondence with the regional youth secretaries, and had also recently appointed a small Youth Task Force, under Mr Koshy. The report was the result of the work done by these groups and

by a consultation of the regional youth secretaries in March.

Dr Raiser presented the report and recommendations as follows:

1. Pre-Assembly Youth Conference

It is accepted that the Conference will take place between 16-21 November 1975 at Arusha, Tanzania. The conference will be organized under the responsibility of the World Council of Churches in collaboration with the AACC/WSCF-Africa regional office.

a. Participants

i. All younger delegates and advisers to be invited (90);

ii. 15 additional participants from Africa, to be selected and invited by the AACC/WSCF-Africa in consultation with the Youth Task Force;

iii. 15 Assembly stewards to be selected by the Youth Task Force. To ensure regional balance at the conference, the stewards are to be selected from countries except those coming from Western Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand, Africa. In particular, Eastern Europe is to be included. Names to be submitted by regional secretaries to F. Lüscher;

iv. a few resource persons, selected by the Task Force, to meet special areas arising in the programme, e.g. a younger person coming from the Middle East to present the confrontation of a Christian living in a non-Christian world.

b. Programme

It is agreed that the major purpose of the conference is to introduce the younger delegates and advisers to the programme and mechanics of the Assembly, and to identify major issues arising within the different regions which should be given special consideration during the Assembly. The final shape of the programme is to be kept flexible in order to take suggestions from the participants into account.

The following features are proposed to be included in the programme. The Task Force, in collaboration with the AACC, is to work out their implementation and scheduling:

i. introduction of participants into the African situation, especially Tanzania, Kenya, EAC, Tanu Youth League. Possible resource person: N. Maro. This is to be followed up by A. Muyale and P. Kodjo;

ii. presentation of regional concerns and priorities: to be prepared by regional youth secretaries;

iii. regional meetings;

iv. panel of participants addressing themselves to the following points:

- their understanding of the ecumenical movement and its future goal;
- their expectations regarding the Nairobi Assembly;
- their anticipated input and area of concerns into the Assembly;

v. discussion of Section issues, dividing into groups;

vi. introduction and orientation regarding the programme and mechanics of the Assembly;

vii. worship, possibly as Bible studies or experimental worship services;

viii. possibly some thematic focus, e.g. a panel of specially invited resource persons (Cone, a representative from Frelimo, etc.) who would focus theologically on "How does Jesus Christ free and unite in your situation?"

2. Annotated Agenda for Hearing on Youth

It was agreed that there should be one agenda for the Hearing and for the Workshop, thus avoiding confusion and enabling close correlation between the Workshop report and the Hearing discussion. The Workshop will produce a document from its first four sessions to be presented to the Hearing discussions. This document will give basic directions for youth work in future, and may offer options for consideration by the Hearing participants. It is hoped that the Hearing will adopt the Workshop document as its own report to the Programme Guidelines Committee.

3. Workshop on Youth

The Workshop on Youth will be composed of approximately 27 persons. The Youth Task Force has recommended that in this Workshop there will be 20 delegates, five advisers, and two staff. It is proposed that at least ten of the delegates will be under 30 years of age, and that these will be selected to ensure regional balance. The remaining delegates will be persons who have special experience and expertise, both in youth work and within the ecumenical movement.

It is proposed that at least two delegates from the Programme Guidelines Committee be appointed as members of the Workshop. The task of the Workshop will be to analyse youth work within the World Council of Churches

since Uppsala and to make proposals for the future of youth work for the period following Nairobi. This document would be presented to the Hearing on Youth for its consideration and discussion.

4. Special Issue of Risk

Purpose: This issue of Risk would serve as a handbook for the youth Workshop during the Assembly. It would serve also at the pre-Assembly Youth Conference to give basic information to the younger delegates and advisers as they look to the future youth work in the World Council of Churches.

Format and Implementation: The basic format would be that which Risk takes, thus including pictures, poems, prayers, cartoons, articles, etc. Some specific items to be included:

- the annotated agenda for the Workshop, to be finalized by the Task Force for presentation to the Executive Committee;
- basic resource material reporting on issues and concerns in the regions in their youth work;
- a brief summary of the work and developments of the Ecumenical Youth Service and World Youth Projects since Uppsala;
- a section of responses coming from the younger delegates themselves in response to questions sent to them by the editorial team;
- a section presenting some of the basic issues arising out of the Uppsala to Nairobi Report, e.g. issues arising from a greater focus on regionalization within the ecumenical movement (need to clarify regional-WCC relations) and the question of "integration" of youth work into the total programme of the World Council.

It is proposed that an editorial team be appointed to work out the details in the preparation for this volume which should be ready for publication on 1 July 1975. It is recommended that attention should be given to getting translations of the issue into French and Spanish.

Editorial team: Koshy, Wormus, Le Mone, Eckerdal, Oporio-Ekwaro.

5. Recommendations

i. It is recommended that at least four places on the Programme Guidelines Committee be allocated to younger delegates. Names will be sent to the General Secretariat for consideration after further study has been done by the Youth Task Force.

ii. It is recommended that at least six places be allocated to younger delegates in the categories of chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary for the sections, hearings, etc. during the Assembly. Names will be presented by the task force, after further consultation with youth secretaries in the regions, to the General Secretariat for nomination.

iii. The Youth Task Force will submit names to the Assembly Preparations Committee for consideration as chairperson and secretary for the Youth Workshop.

Bishop Nichols asked whether, in spite of the integration of young people into all activities of the Assembly, they would not need special activities of their own outside the regular programme. Dr Raiser replied that this had been taken for granted and the pattern for such activities would be developed during the pre-Assembly Youth Conference.

The Chairman congratulated the Youth Task Force and all involved in the report.

Dr Raiser explained that the editor of Risk would have the normal overall responsibility for the special issue which would serve as a handbook for the Youth Workshop during the Assembly. In response to a question by Mr Johnson regarding the outline of the Risk issue, Dr Raiser explained that it was not intended to reproduce in this issue earlier drafts of the chapter on youth concerns in the report Uppsala to Nairobi.

Bishop Nichols moved, and it was agreed, that the report be accepted and the recommendations in it be referred to the General Secretary for appropriate action.

9. FUND FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND RECONCILIATION IN INDOCHINA

Mr Itty reported briefly on the work of the FRRI. The Indochina Forum had met in Vientiane and had pleaded that peacemaking and peace-building should be the major priority. The Board of the Fund had taken new initiatives in this direction and decided to appeal for another $5 million. Mr Itty also reported on the discussions which had taken place since the Berlin Central Committee on the relationship between the FRRI and CCA.

The Executive Committee agreed:

i. that the relations between WCC and CCA in regard to the programmes of FRRI and ACS should be maintained on the following basis, as already approved by CCA:

a. that since ACS is responsible to CCA and the Board of the Fund to the WCC Central Committee, the suggestion that the two should be combined into one would involve major problems and should not be proceeded with in the meantime;

b. that the Board of the Fund should remain subject in policy to the WCC Central Committee, but should be free to plan its programme and activities within the policy guidelines;

c. that the Board report through CICARWS to the Programme Unit on Justice and Service, which shall be responsible for its report to Central Committee. CICARWS shall also provide such administrative assistance, including the receipt and disbursement of funds, as are mutually agreed upon by the Board of the Fund and CICARWS. The Board shall also report to CCA for information;

d. while it is intended that the above process will enable any overlapping with ACS to be avoided, it is also recommended that the Board meetings (where the CCA General Secretary is a member) be attended by the Director of ACS as a consultant, and that the ACS responsible committee be attended by the Director of the Fund as a consultant;

e. that while appointments to the Board will remain in the hands of the WCC Central Committee, CCA be consulted for proposals before any Asian members are appointed.

ii. To extend the mandate of FRRI for another two years, subject to revision by the Central Committee in 1976.

iii. To endorse the FRRI action to seek additional resources for the Fund.

10. CONSTITUTION

A. Proposed changes of text

On the recommendation of the sub-committee convened by Dr Marshall, the Executive Committee agreed:

i. that in view of the foreseeable financial limitations on the WCC, it be recommended to the Preparation of Nominations Committee that the number of members to be elected to the Central Committee under the Constitution Clause V.1.c.ii. be not more than 125. It was understood that this proposal should be reviewed by the Executive just prior to the Assembly;

ii. to adopt an interpretation of Constitution Clause V.2.c.lv. to imply that its meaning is that: "It shall

elect a committee for each Programme Unit, a Board for each Special Unit, and a Commission or Working Group for each sub-unit of the Programme Units";

iii. to recommend to the Assembly that Rule VI 2.b. be changed to read: "(b) Ecumenical Institute, including its Graduate School.", that Rule VI 2.c. be deleted and that the introductory phrase of Rule VI 2 shall read: "There shall be two Specialized Units";

iv. to recommend to the Assembly that in Rule IV 5.a.iii. an additional clause be added within the parentheses as follows: "except that recommendations from committees of the Programme Units may be considered by the Central Committee without prior consideration by a Reference Committee";

v. to recommend to the Assembly that in Rule IV 5.d. there be added "and receive reports from them at each of its meetings";

vi. to recommend to the Assembly that in Rule VI 1. the main paragraph shall be amended to include a parenthesis as follows: "The Central Committee shall determine the size and composition of the Committee for each Programme Unit (so that at least two-thirds of the members of each Programme Unit Committee are also members of the Central Committee) and elect ..."

B. Sexist language

Miss Bam reported that, following the recommendation of the Berlin Central Committee, a Consultation, co-sponsored by Unit III and the Faith and Order Commission, had been held in February 1975 on "Sexist language in theology and Church". She presented the statement drawn up by this consultation and its suggestions for the revision of the Central Committee document on proposed changes in the WCC Constitution and Rules. After extensive discussion the matter was referred to a sub-committee which later reported to the Executive Committee. After discussion and amendment of the sub-committee's recommendations, the Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Assembly:

1. that Clause III, iii of the Constitution be reworded as follows: "To express the common concern of the churches in the service of human need, the breaking down of barriers between people, and the promotion of one human family in justice and peace";

ii. that the terms Moderator and Vice-moderator be used instead of Chairman and Vice-chairman respectively;

iii. that where the term "laymen" is used, the following be substituted: "lay persons - men, women and young people";

iv. that the following wording be changed as indicated whenever it is appropriate:

"he considers necessary" to "appears necessary"
"he" to "he or she"
"chairmanship" to "moderatorship"
"his" to "his or her"
"spokesman" to "representative"

v. that in Rule VII 4. the words "also represented" be changed to "adequately represented";

vi. that in Rule XIV 3. the word "himself" be deleted.

The Executive Committee also agreed to ask a group of language experts to draw up guidelines for the elimination of sexist language from WCC speeches and publications, drawing on the guidance already provided by member churches and their publishing houses. The Executive Committee further encouraged Unit III to continue the study on "Sexist language in theology and Church".

C. Procedures for election of new Commissions, Working Groups, etc.

Bishop Nichols reported on the discussion in the Sub-Committee on Priorities on this subject. The Central Committee at Berlin had discussed the proposal that the new Central Committee at its first meeting in Nairobi appoint core groups, or nuclei, of future Commissions and Working Groups. The responsibility of these nuclei would be to prepare for consideration and decision by the Central Committee at its full meeting in July 1976 detailed proposals regarding programme as well as concerning the composition of new Commissions and Working Groups. The staff was instructed to bring detailed proposals to this meeting of the Executive Committee. Subsequently the Staff Executive Group (SEG) had accepted the following guidelines for the implementation of the nuclei proposal:

a. The new Central Committee shall elect a nucleus of five or seven members for each Commission and Working Group at its meeting in Nairobi following the Assembly, and shall appoint its convener.

b. Nobody shall be a member of more than one nucleus.

c. Proposals for names shall be prepared in consultation with the outgoing Commissions and Working Groups, coordinated by the Staff Group on Programme Coordination and Planning, and reviewed by the Executive Committee.

d. In cases where it is required for operational reasons, the new Central Committee shall appoint an interim chairperson of a Commission until due election can take place.

The difficulties raised by this proposal for certain Commissions, in particular for CCIA, PCR and CICARWS, were explained. Attention was also drawn to the new situation which had been created by the revised Constitution in comparison to procedures at the Uppsala Assembly.

The Sub-Committee finally recommended and, after much discussion, the Executive Committee agreed that

i. the concept of appointment of only part of Commissions be confirmed;

ii. the core groups include not more than one-third of the full membership of a Commission or Working Group, as defined by the respective constitutions or by-laws;

iii. no exceptions to the rule be considered;

iv. the guidelines b.-d. as prepared by the SEG and indicated above, be accepted as governing principles;

v. the lists of names to be proposed for membership in the groups shall have a balance of old and new members;

vi. in cases of necessity, the authority of an executive committee or officers as specified in the various constitutions or by-laws be vested temporarily in these groups.

D. Proposal regarding the future structure of Unit III

The Sub-Committee on Priorities, on the basis of a paper prepared by the staff of the Programme Unit on Education and Renewal, recommended, and the Executive Committee agreed in principle, that the sub-division of Programme Unit III into the following four sub-units be regarded as the basic sub-unit organizational pattern: Education; Women in Church and Society; Renewal Movements; Youth. The Unit Committee would be appointed by the Central Committee and the working pattern and membership would be similar to that of the other Programme Units. The Committee authorized the General Secretary to work out with Programme Unit III the implementation of this change.

11. LETTER OF GREETING TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE IN MEXICO

Miss Bam referred to the work undertaken by the Women's Desk following the Consultation on Sexism in the 70s (West Berlin, June 1974), and particularly to the consultation for European church women held in Cartigny in April 1975. Twelve projects, mostly in Asia, Africa and Latin America, were being supported and it was expected that the necessary funds would be raised, mainly by church women's groups, by the end of the year. It was hoped that it would be possible

for the WCC to be represented at the International Women's Year Conference in Mexico and Miss Bam presented a proposed letter of greeting to be sent to this meeting. After some discussion and amendment, it was agreed to send the following letter:

> The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches sends greetings to the UN Conference meeting in Mexico in connection with International Women's Year, and expresses its strong support for and cooperation with the UN in striving to realize the IWY goals of equality, development and peace for women and men throughout the world.
>
> As Christians we affirm that the equality of women and men is clearly enunciated in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and we rejoice in all that has been done in the name of that Gospel to minister to the spiritual, mental and physical needs of women as well as men in all six continents. Yet we confess that in their institutional life the churches, in common with most structured communities, have not so far enabled women to render their fullest contribution to the total life of their councils and assemblies.
>
> At this time, however, we are conscious of a new awakening among Christian women throughout the world. At the Consultation on Sexism in the 1970s, sponsored by the WCC in June 1974, at which we were delighted to welcome as guest speaker the UN Deputy General Secretary, Mrs Helvi Sipilä, the 150 women gathered from 49 countries affirmed that sisterhood transcends all divisions - racial, political, economic, social and religious. From that consultation came many recommendations to the churches to change radically their attitudes and practices.
>
> In connection with IWY the World Council of Churches is giving particular emphasis to several projects that would aid women living on the subsistence level or suffering other forms of deprivation. Among them will be projects training women in vocational skills and encouraging self-reliance to enhance their dignity.
>
> In November 1975, the cause of women will be very much on the agenda of the Fifth Assembly of the WCC as one of the eight plenary sessions will be devoted to the subject of "Women in a changing world". As the Assembly considers the theme "Jesus Christ frees and unites", we shall be seeking ways in which the churches can intensify their efforts to enable women to become truly free:

- free from outworn stereotypes of the "appropriate" role for a woman;
- free to be themselves as women;
- free to realize their full potential;
- free to reach out to others in unselfish love and joyful service;
- free to make their own distinctive contribution to Church and community;
- free to participate actively in the development of the nation.

To this end, we welcome the emphasis being laid by the UN this year on the rights and responsibilities of women. In common cause with you, we look forward eagerly towards the day when women and men in equal partnership can work for a world community in which all are free to utilize their God-given talents in the service of a new humanity.

12. ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONS

A. Fourth Official Report of the Joint Working Group and the future of SODEPAX

Dr Vischer reported on the situation regarding the Fourth Official Report of the Joint Working Group, including the question of the future of SODEPAX. After reviewing the contents of the report as now proposed and stressing its significance, he listed a number of basic issues for discussion. A number of questions were raised and some general discussion took place. The Executive Committee noted the following points:

a. In a letter signed by H.E. Cardinal Willebrands (dated 14 April 1975) the Holy See had informed the WCC of its "agreement that the text of the Fourth Report of the Joint Working Group be presented to the Fifth Assembly".

b. On behalf of H.H. Pope Paul VI, Cardinal Willebrands had transmitted to the WCC the gift of $10,000 towards the expenses of the Assembly or for any other use. The Executive Committee expressed its appreciation for this gesture of solidarity.

c. In addition to the general approval expressed in his letter concerning the Fourth Official Report, the Vice-President of the Commission on Justice and Peace had informed the Executive Committee that the Holy See had given approval to the continuation of SODEPAX for a further period of three years (1976-78). Recalling the decision of the Central Committee in Berlin that SODEPAX should be continued, the Executive Committee reiterated the willingness of the WCC to prolong the mandate of SODEPAX for another three years. The final decision would need to be taken by

the Assembly.

d. The Executive Committee expressed the hope that the Fourth Official Report would be examined by the member churches before the Assembly. The future activities of the Joint Working Group would be strengthened if the member churches would make known to the WCC in what ways the Joint Working Group could be of assistance to them in their relations to the Roman Catholic Church.

e. The Executive Committee requested the Officers to follow the debate initiated by the publication of the Fourth Report and if necessary to appoint a small group to prepare a brief paper which would assist the Assembly Policy Reference Committee in its evaluation of the Fourth Report.

f. The Executive Committee noted that future collaboration was expected to concentrate on three areas. Obviously plans for this need to be further elaborated. The Executive Committee welcomed the meeting scheduled for 15-21 June which will give special attention to the first two of these areas - the unity of the Church and the common witness of Christians. The Executive Committee noted that SODEPAX was engaged in working out details of its future programme. The Executive Committee stressed the need for close coordination between SODEPAX, CCPD, and Church and Society. In order to avoid duplication and unnecessary multiplication of ecumenical structures, the plans may need to be reviewed after the Nairobi Assembly in the light of the programme priorities which will then emerge.

g. The Executive Committee drew special attention to the financial implications of all programmes listed in the Fourth Report. No programmes should be initiated before financial support has been secured.

After further discussion, the Executive Committee agreed that the Fourth Official Report of the Joint Working Group between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches be transmitted to the Fifth Assembly and that it be made available in print through publication in the Assembly Work Book.

B. Fixed Date for Easter

Dr Vischer explained the history of the issue and the problems involved. In the years 1965-1969, the WCC conducted an inquiry with its member churches exploring the possibility of arriving at a common date for the celebration of Easter. The replies indicated that the majority of the member churches were in favour of choosing the Sunday following the second Saturday in April as the common date. Some churches expressed the view that the common date should be reached by agreeing on the astronomically exact date of the equinox. On the basis of these replies, the Faith and Order Secretariat organized a consultation on the issue in

Chambésy, 1970. The report of this consultation was published and communicated to the member churches. At that time the matter was not further pursued but it was understood that the WCC, through its Faith and Order Commission, should remain in contact and consultation with the member churches, and that "it should be prepared to make a definite proposal concerning the matter when sufficient support from the various confessional groups had been secured".

Since then, new developments have taken place. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the British Council of Churches have requested the WCC to re-open the issue in consultation with the Roman Catholic Church. In a letter addressed to the General Secretary of the WCC, H.H. Pope Paul VI expressed his desire to find a solution to the issue. He recalled the resolution of the Second Vatican Council that the Roman Catholic Church was ready to accept, in agreement with other Christian Churches, a common day for celebrating Easter and informed the WCC that "the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity has been commissioned by him to maintain close contacts with the other Christian Churches, with the World Confessional Families and especially with the World Council of Churches in order to study what concrete steps might be taken to achieve this end".

In 1964, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches expressed its belief that the member Presbyterian and Reformed Churches would welcome an agreement among the churches of the world for fixing the date of Easter, e.g. that Easter shall be on the second Sunday in April (unless 1 April is a Sunday in which case it shall be the third Sunday). In a recent letter addressed to the World Council of Churches, the General Secretary of the World Alliance inquired whether it was now possible to make any progress arriving at a common solution.

Having heard these developments, the Executive Committee instructed the Faith and Order Secretariat to explore whether the time for a definite proposal has now come.

If it becomes clear that the majority of churches are prepared to accept the proposal, the occasion of the Assembly could be used to communicate it to the member churches for ratification. Obviously, the WCC has no authority to take a decision on a matter of this sort. Moreover, the Executive Committee felt that no major debate should take place on this issue at the Assembly, but it would welcome the opportunity to serve the churches in their search for a common solution.

The proposal might read as follows: "In order to underline the unity of all Christians in the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is proposed that all churches should observe Easter each year on the Sunday following the second Saturday of April. The proposal should be implemented beginning in the year 1977 and the churches

are invited to make known their decision before 1 December 1976. In case they do not feel free to accept the proposal, they should indicate whether they would agree that the majority of the churches follow the proposed date."

13. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Dr Brash presented the applications for membership which had been received. It was agreed:

i. to recommend to the Assembly that the following churches be received as member churches and invited to send one delegate each to the Fifth Assembly:

Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean
African Christian Church and Schools
Cook Islands Christian Church

ii. to recommend to the Assembly that the following churches be received as associate member churches and invited to send a fraternal delegate each to the Fifth Assembly:

Church of Bangladesh
Evangelical Methodist Church of Costa Rica
Methodist Church of Samoa
Protestant Church in Sabah, Malaysia
The Disciples of Christ, Argentina
Punguan Kristen Batak, Indonesia

iii. that the application of the Eglise de la Nouvelle Alliance be declined;

iv. to approve the request of the Moravian Church (Western Cape Province) and the Moravian Church (Eastern Province) to be listed as one church, and to retain the three delegates to the Assembly previously allotted to them;

v. to defer consideration of the application of the United Kingdom Branch, Cherubim and Seraphim Church, until the discussion of its application to join the British Council of Churches has taken place.

There was some discussion about the admission of very small churches to associate membership. The General Secretary suggested that at its meeting just prior to the Assembly the Executive Committee might wish to propose to the Assembly the introduction of a rule relating to the minimum size of associate member churches.

14. REPORT OF FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Lord March presented the report of the Finance Sub-Committee.

1. There have been many changes in the financial position and outlook since the Central Committee meeting in August 1974. The position has become still more difficult, but there are bright spots and the judgment of the Finance Sub-Committee is that, unless there are further unfavourable developments, the position remains potentially manageable.

Salary increases to compensate increased cost of living

2. The General Secretary consulted the Finance Sub-Committee on this problem. The conclusions which were reached are reflected in the estimates given in this report.

Retirement and Provident Foundations

3. The Finance Sub-Committee was advised that the Boards of these Foundations had found that the change in economic conditions since the Retirement Foundation was planned and established made it necessary to re-examine the basic structures of the Fund. After having examined the position in the light of the actuary's report, the Boards therefore submitted proposals for increased contributions by employer and employee to the Provident Fund; these were approved by the Finance Sub-Committee. The Boards further submitted recommendations for an additional contribution by the World Council to the Retirement Fund to finance cost of living increases in pensions comparable to the increases proposed for active staff; these were also approved. The effect of these decisions is also reflected in the estimates given in this report. Further proposals for strengthening the position of the Retirement Fund were submitted and agreed, which do not bear directly on the budgets of the World Council.

General Budget

4. The estimates presented in Berlin indicated that the accounts for General Budget operations in 1974 should be balanced or even show a small surplus. The negative effect of exchange movements already affected 1974 income but the Lilly Foundation grant and the generous German assistance in the financing of the Berlin Central Committee meeting more than counterbalanced the losses. According to provisional estimates, expenditure was held nearly Frs.400,000 below budget level - by reason of the general exercise of economy and also of vacant posts - and the year's accounts are expected to show a surplus of about Frs.300,000. A balance of Frs.600,000 was brought forward from 1973 on Special Reserve - a balance created out of surpluses in earlier years.

5. The Berlin estimates in respect of General Budget

operations in 1975 showed a deficit of Frs.950,000 but it was indicated that, with economies and with Frs.6 to 700,000 brought forward on Special Reserve, expenses to the end of 1975 should be covered. The Expenditure Budget for 1975 is Frs.6,950,000. It may, however, again be possible to hold expenditure to a lower level and actual expenditure may be nearer Frs.6,600,000. The income estimates presented in Berlin must be reduced to about Frs.5,620,000, mainly by reason of exchange rate movements, involving a reduction of income by about Frs.760,000. The reduction resulting from exchange rate movements is partly offset by the Lilly Foundation grant and the expectation of somewhat higher interest earnings. The above figures thus suggest a deficit for 1975 of about Frs.1,000,000, towards which there should be about Frs.900,000 available in the Special Reserve. There is also an amount of Frs.644,000 available from the profits on the sale of the adjoining property; the Finance Committee last summer expressed the hope that this could be held for future capital needs but it could, if necessary, be used in part to cover a deficit at the end of 1975. It thus remains true that resources are expected to be available to finance operations to the end of 1975.

6. The approximate estimate of 1976 General Budget needs used in Berlin was Frs.8,200,000. The first estimate of needs submitted by units, sub-units, etc. totals Frs.8,600,000. However, even though the future development of inflation cannot be forecast, it now seems possible that the provision made for 10% in 1975 and 12% in 1976 may be too high. If the provision for inflation is cut back, maximum economy exercised and some posts left vacant, it may be possible for expenditure to be held to Frs.8,000,000. The best realistic estimate of normal General Budget income for 1976 which can be presented at this time is Frs.5,700,000. This suggests a deficit of Frs.2,300,000 or 28.75% of the expenditure budget. This represents a far greater deficit of normal income compared with normal expenditure than has ever been forecast in past years and indicates the extent of the basic financial problem which must be faced in the coming period. But in respect of 1976, there are possibilities of special resources to meet or at least lessen the problem for that year, in particular:

a. there is encouragement to hope that special foundation support of the order of Frs.500,000 may be received;

b. special assistance may be available from exchange profits in 1974 - perhaps Frs.750,000; and

c. there will be available any part of the profit on the sale of the adjoining property - Frs.644,000 - not needed to cover any deficit at the end of 1975.

7. The problem in respect of financing 1976 General Budget operations was reported to the Central Committee last August.

The Finance Sub-Committee was advised of the action taken by the General Secretary in informing all staff of the difficult financial position and of the nine measures under consideration for alleviating the situation. After extended discussion, the Finance Sub-Committee noted that there are possibilities of reducing, if not, on present estimates, of completely eliminating the gap for 1976. At this period of constant change, further revision of estimates - whether improving or worsening them - is almost certain to be necessary in the coming months. The Finance Sub-Committee therefore recommended and it was agreed:

a. that staff be requested to re-examine in detail the estimated needs for the 1976 General Budget with a view to reducing the level to Frs.8,000,000 or lower if at all possible;

b. that maximum endeavours to secure increased resources for General Budget operations be pursued as a matter of urgency;

c. that the suggestion be pursued that those member churches which may find such a procedure possible be encouraged to seek a decision that one Sunday's offering be given for the support of the work of the World Council;

d. that the officers, together with the Chairman of the Finance Committee, be asked to review the position in September 1975 and empowered to take any action they may find necessary in the light of the estimated position as at that date; and

e. that the position be reviewed again at the meeting prior to the Fifth Assembly.

8. The Finance Sub-Committee reminded the Executive Committee that, partly as a result of the unfavourable development of investment portfolios, the General Reserve of the World Council at this time amounts to only about Frs.1,000,000 or about the equivalent of six weeks' expenditure under the General Budget.

9. The Finance Sub-Committee also discussed briefly the proposed procedures for informing the Fifth Assembly at an early point in its deliberations of the financial problems.

Exchange profits and losses

10. The Finance Sub-Committee noted that from profits totalling $2,500,556 which arose in the three years 1971/73, $1,290,663 have under prior decisions been distributed to those Commissions, Sub-Units, etc. whose operations result in the large liquid resources held by the World Council and from the management of which those profits resulted. Profits

plus interest earnings on the reserve against possible future exchange losses amounted to about $825,000 in 1974. The Finance Sub-Committee recommended and it was agreed:

a. that one half of the amount available in 1974 be added to the reserve against possible future exchange losses; and

b. that one half of the amount available in 1974 be distributed to the appropriate Commissions, Sub-Units, etc. but that they be urged, bearing in mind the extent to which the realization of their specialized objectives is facilitated and made possible by the fact that they are a part of the total activities of the World Council of Churches and served by the Central Administration of the World Council, to consider making those sums available to assist in the financing of General Budget activities in 1976.

Fifth Assembly Budget

11. The Finance Sub-Committee reported that the prospects of financing the Budget for the Fifth Assembly are good.

12. The Finance Sub-Committee examined a proposed detailed expenditure budget and recommended and it was agreed:

that under the authorization given by the Central Committee in August 1974, approval be given to the proposed expenditure budget for the Fifth Assembly totalling $1,439,800.

13. The income at present foreseeable towards the financing of that budget is:

Special contributions from member churches		$ 495,000
Assembly reserve, including interest and exchange profits		420,000
Registration fees (Frs.150 or equiv.)		90,000
Exchange profits voted by:		
CICARWS	$150,000	
"	125,262	
TEF	50,000	
"	25,191	
CWME	15,000	
	$365,453	365,000
Total		$1,370,000

The Executive Committee expressed its thanks to the three Commissions for their action.

14. In earlier Central Committee discussions, it was noted that only a small provision had been included in the Fifth Assembly Budget ($200,000) for travel assistance to delegates and others whose churches are unable fully to finance travel and board and lodging costs and that member churches, mission and interchurch aid agencies would be asked for assistance for these expenses to make possible the attendance of delegates from all member churches. It is estimated that an additional sum of about $250,000 will be needed to raise the total to $450,000. The full amount is not yet assured but there are encouraging possibilities of assistance from the constituencies of CICARWS, CWME and CCPD and also from foundations and it is hoped that the full necessary sum may be secured.

Programme Projects

15. Present estimates indicate that all expenditure on Programme Projects to the end of 1974 has been covered. SEG has authorized Programme Projects for 1975 which will exhaust all foreseeable resources for this year. It seems clear that we must foresee increasing difficulty in securing undesignated resources for Programme Projects.

Office of Education

16. When it was decided to establish a separate budget for the Office of Education, the hope was that it would be possible to build up regular income adequate to finance it. We are far from having succeeded in realizing this hope. The 1976 expenditure budget is about Frs.600,000. Income is presently estimated at about Frs.245,000, or less than one half of the budget. This income is primarily from North America. The immediate position is not critical because EKD has allocated one Sunday's offering for each of the three years 1973-75 for the support of Bossey and the Office of Education. It now seems clear that this will provide sufficient resources to complete the financing of the budget of the Office of Education to the end of 1975 and quite probably to the end of 1976. The basic problem of securing an adequate regular annual designated income for financing the budget of the Office of Education remains, however, unsolved.

Bible Secretariat

17. The original decision was that this Secretariat should be financed for an initial period of three years beginning 1 May 1971, by securing special support. However, a provision of Frs.4,000 p.a. was included in the General Budget as an indication of the desire and intention that it should subsequently be included within the General Budget. At the end of the three year initial period, the financial difficulties in respect of operations under the General Budget were such that it seemed inevitable that endeavours must be continued to finance the Bible Secretariat by special

contributions. Income sufficient to cover all expenses is not assured; there is a danger that there will be a deficit - perhaps Frs.100,000 - at the end of 1975. The only assured income beyond 1975 is Frs.4,000 p.a. from the General Budget and special contributions of about Frs.17,500 p.a. The 1976 budget is about Frs.175,000.

Commission on World Mission and Evangelism

18. The Operating Budget and operations under Programme Askings are intimately related; deficits on Operating Budget can be covered by allocations from Programme Askings-Undesignated. It is clear that 1975 operations can be financed and probable that 1976 operations can also be financed, partly because there will be a substantial carry forward on Programme Askings-Undesignated. As to the specialized agencies of CWME, it is expected that ACLD will merge into WACC this year. At present, TEF and CMC are able to keep expenditure within the limits of resources, though it has not been possible to raise the total amounts approved as "goals" for their activities.

Commission on Interchurch Aid, Refugee and World Service

19. More than half of the operations under the Service Programme Budget represent Swiss franc expenses: CICARWS therefore faces problems as a result of the new exchange rates. So far, it has been possible by economies, some staff reductions, transfer of some operations to the Project List, etc., to meet the problems that have arisen.

Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development

20. CCPD has been able to operate by securing contributions to the Ecumenical Development Fund on a basis which leaves freedom to the Commission to use those contributions either for the basic administrative budget or for grants to counterpart agencies. There is now some moral commitment - though no legal commitment - to the maintenance of support for counterpart agencies. It is foreseen that income sufficient for 1975 can be secured and there are reasonable prospects for the financing of the 1976 operations.

Investment Portfolios

21. The Finance Sub-Committee received a report on the investment portfolios of the World Council which, like virtually all investment portfolios, show a heavy decline in 1974 by reason of the decline in stock market prices.

Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society

22. Good progress has been made in securing commitments or expressions of support for EDCS. Progress towards establishing EDCS has been greatly hampered by uncertainty as to

whether, in the light of the restrictions introduced in Switzerland with effect from 1 August 1974 limiting the possibilities of securing residence and work permits for non-Swiss staff. The possibilities of establishing EDCS in England or the Netherlands have therefore been investigated.

23. There is urgent need for action if the momentum created by the action of the Central Committee in August 1974 is not to be lost and the reports on the possibilities of establishing EDCS in the Netherlands are most encouraging. The Finance Sub-Committee therefore recommended and it was agreed:

> that, in view of the difficulties of establishing the EDCS in Switzerland due to the restrictions on foreign personnel, the Executive Committee give authority for the EDCS to be incorporated in the Netherlands.

Banking and South Africa

24. The Finance Sub-Committee received a report on the action taken after consultation with the member churches in the UK, the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany, and the progress made in connection with the resolution adopted by the Central Committee in August 1974, and indicating that:

> a. a letter had been sent to the European American Banking Corporation and an acknowledgment received but as yet no reply to the content of the letter;
>
> b. the Chairman of the Finance Committee and representatives of the British Council of Churches and UK member churches had visited the Chairman of Midland Bank, presented the Central Committee resolution and initiated discussion with that bank; and
>
> c. letters had been addressed to four of the other five member banks of EABC, an interim answer received from one expressing willingness to submit the letter to consideration by the March 1975 meeting of EABC, a negative reply received from a second bank and no reply as yet from the other two.

25. The Finance Sub-Committee noted that it had not proved possible to obtain firm responses from the Banks in the time since the Central Committee action. It was agreed that, as a follow-up to the visit to the Chairman of Midland Bank, the Central Committee resolution should now be officially submitted by letter from the World Council to that bank and that letters urging a speedy reply and requesting a report on any action taken at the March meeting of EABC should be sent to EABC and its member banks.

26. The Finance Sub-Committee recommended and it was agreed:

that if, as a result of the further proposed action, satisfactory assurances are not forthcoming by 31 October 1975, then the Executive Committee at Nairobi should take action in accordance with the authorization given by the Central Committee in August 1974.

27. The Finance Sub-Committee suggested that it would be valuable if there could be a general report at the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the decisions and actions which have been taken by member churches in relation both to investment in Southern Africa and banking in South Africa and suggested that the Executive Committee might ask the Secretariat of the Programme to Combat Racism to collect the necessary information and present such a report at the next meeting.

Proposed preliminary guidelines for the acceptance of government funds by WCC

28. The Finance Sub-Committee discussed the proposals in Executive Committee and was informed of the discussions which had taken place with the member churches in Canada regarding those proposed preliminary guidelines. The Finance Sub-Committee welcomed the serious attempt to provide guidelines for WCC acceptance of government funds and recognized the complexity of the task. The Finance Sub-Committee recommended and it was agreed:

a. that the guidelines as proposed (see Appendix IV) be given general approval as a working basis on the understanding that they be used during the next year as a basis of discussion with any of the member churches, such as those in Canada, which might wish to suggest adjustments before their final adoption as approved policy; and that in countries where churches request further discussion no government funds be accepted by the World Council of Churches without clearance by the member churches in that country;

b. that a copy should be sent to every sub-unit within the WCC, with a request that they review any use they are currently making of government funds;

c. that any new proposal to accept or apply for government funds, if it is not clearly within the guidelines, should be submitted, in advance of acceptance or application, to the General Secretary who, at his discretion, may grant exceptions.

15. WORK PERMITS

Mr Northam reported on the substantial efforts that had been made over a long period regarding the securing of necessary work permits in Switzerland. The Executive Committee asked Dr Rossel to convey their deep gratitude to Dr Sigrist and the Swiss Protestant Church Federation for their efforts on behalf of the WCC and other religious organizations.

16. FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates were agreed:

Executive Committee in Nairobi: 20-22 November 1975

New Central Committee in Nairobi: 11 December and two other meetings during the Assembly

New Executive Committee: 22-26 March 1976

Central Committee: A meeting of about 12 days in the first two weeks of August 1976, in Geneva

It was noted that the Executive Committee had been invited to meet in Finland in 1976, and in the USA in 1976 or 1977.

17. CLOSING ACTIONS

The General Secretary informed the Executive Committee that, in connection with the 60th anniversary of the massacre of the Armenians, the Officers had written a letter to the Catholicos of Cilicia, drawing special attention to issues of human rights. He also announced that on 21 May the Chairman, Dr Thomas, would receive a doctorate of theology at the University of Leiden, and that on 29 May the Cardinal Bea Prize for Peace would be presented to the Honorary President, Dr Visser 't Hooft.

Dr Lochman, on behalf of the Executive Committee, thanked the staff for their hospitality. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Miss Webb, the General Secretary, the Deputy General Secretaries and the staff for all their help during the meeting.

APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Honorary President:	Rev. Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft
Presidents:	Dr Mrs K.T. Cho Rev. Dr E.A. Payne
Officers:	Dr M.M. Thomas (Chairman) Miss P.M. Webb (Vice-Chairman) Rev. Dr P.A. Potter (General Secretary)
Members:	Rev. Dr I.B. Bokeleale Mr J.V. Faune Pastor K. Gottschald Mr D.E. Johnson Rev. J. Langhoff Professor Dr J.M. Lochman Rt Hon. Earl of March Rev. Dr R.J. Marshall Bishop Dr R.C. Nichols His Eminence Metropolitan Nikodim Rev. Dr J. Rossel Professor T. Sabev Archbishop K. Sarkissian General T.B. Simatupang Dr R. von Weizsäcker Mrs J. Wesonga
Consultants:	His Eminence Metropolitan Emilianos Archimandrite Kirill
Staff:	Dr P. Abrecht Miss B. Bam Dr A.A. Brash Mrs M. Burton Dr E. Castro Rev. R. Davis Rev. D. Gill Mr J. Hilke Mr C.I. Itty Dr W. Kennedy Rev. A. Le Mone Rev. C. Long Prof. Dr J. Mbiti Mr L. Niilus Mr F. Northam

Staff (cont'd):	Mr S.J. Park
	Dr K. Raiser
	Dr S.J. Samartha
	Mr B. Sjollema
	Miss F. Smith
	Dr R. Traitler
	Fr G. Tsetsis
	Dr L. Vischer
	Miss M. van Vredenburch
	Mrs M. Webb
Interpreters:	Mrs T. Evdokimoff
	Mr A. Nalpanis
Minute Writer:	Miss A. Burrows

APOLOGIES:

Presidents:	His Holiness Patriarch German
	Rt Rev. Bishop Hanns Lilje
	Rev. Dr J. Coventry Smith
	Rt Rev. A.H. Zulu
Vice-Chairman:	His Eminence Metropolitan Meliton

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-Committee on Staffing

Miss P.M. Webb (Convenor)
Rev. Dr I.B. Bokeleale
Dr Mrs K.T. Cho
Mr D.E. Johnson
Prof. Dr J.M. Lochman
Rev. Dr J. Rossel
General T.B. Simatupang
Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft

Sub-Committee on Finance

Rt Hon. Earl of March (Convenor)
Mr J.V. Faune
Pastor K. Gottschald
Rev. J. Langhoff
Rev. Dr R.J. Marshall
Bishop Dr R.C. Nichols
Rev. Dr E.A. Payne
Rev. Dr J. Rossel
Dr R. von Weizsäcker
Mrs J. Wesonga

Sub-Committee on Assembly Sections

Prof. Dr J.M. Lochman (Convenor)
Rev. Dr I.B. Bokeleale
Dr Mrs K.T. Cho
Pastor K. Gottschald
Mr D.E. Johnson
Rev. Dr J. Rossel
Archbishop K. Sarkissian
General T.B. Simatupang
Rev. Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft
Miss P.M. Webb

Sub-Committee on Assembly Participants, etc.

Rev Dr R.J. Marshall (Convenor)
Mr J.V. Faune
Rev. J. Langhoff
Rt Hon. Earl of March
Bishop Dr R.C. Nichols
Rev. Dr E.A. Payne
Dr R. von Weizsäcker
Mrs J. Wesonga

Consultant: Archimandrite Kirill

Sub-Committee on Priorities, etc.

Bishop Dr R.C. Nichols (Convenor)
Rev. Dr I.B. Bokeleale
Mr D.E. Johnson
Prof. Dr J.M. Lochman
His Eminence Metropolitan Nikodim
Professor T. Sabev
Archbishop K. Sarkissian
General T.B. Simatupang
Dr Mrs K.T. Cho
Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft
Miss P.M. Webb

APPENDIX III

SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM: LIST OF ALLOCATIONS FOR 1975

SOUTHERN AFRICA

	African National Council (Zimbabwe)	US$ 83,500
*	South West African People's Organization (SWAPO), Namibia	US$ 83,500
	African National Congress (South Africa)	US$ 45,000
*	Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (South Africa)	US$ 45,000
		US$257,000

ASIA

	National Committee Combating Discrimination against Ethnic People (Japan)	US$ 20,000

AUSTRALIA

	An Aboriginal organization working for economic and social justice (to be named)	US$ 10,000

LATIN AMERICA

	Centro de Coordinación y Promoción Campesina - MINK'A (Bolivia)	US$ 20,000
	Imbabura Indian Peasant Organization (Eduador) .	US$ 20,000
	Asociación Nacional de Usuarios Campesinos - ANUC (Colombia)	US$ 15,000
*	Consejo Regional Indigena del Cauca CRIC (Colombia)	US$ 5,000
		US$ 60,000

NORTH AMERICA - USA

*	American Indian Movement (AIM)	US$ 15,000
	Akwesasne Notes	US$ 5,000
	Delta Ministry - Mississippi	US$ 15,000
*	Free Southern Theatre	US$ 5,000
*	United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC)	US$ 15,000
		US$ 55,000

EUROPE

Comité des travailleurs algériens en France	US$ 5,000
Association des Marocains en France (AMF)	US$ 5,000
Collectif des organisations africaines en France	US$ 5,000
* Institute of Race Relations (IRR), United Kingdom	US$ 5,000
	US$20,000

Support Groups

Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee: Youth Section (JAAC), Japan	US$ 7,500
Toronto Committee for the liberation of Southern Africa (TCLSAC), Canada	US$ 6,000
* Africa News Service and Southern Africa Committee, USA	US$ 5,000
Center for National Security Studies: Africa Project, USA	US$ 7,500
* Aktie Komitee Zuidelijk Afrika (AKZA) and Comité contre le colonialisme et l'apartheid, Belgium	US$ 6,000
* Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM), United Kingdom ..	US$10,000
* Angola Committee, Mondlane Foundation, Anti-Apartheid Movement, Boycott Outspan Action, Netherlands	US$10,000
* Mouvement anti-apartheid suisse, Switzerland ...	US$ 5,000
	US$57,000

* Movements which received grants before

APPENDIX IV

PRELIMINARY GUIDELINES
FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS BY WCC

The World Council is clearly ready to accept funds from government grants, either directly or through intergovernmental agencies or through national church agencies, on certain basic policy understandings. It has proved difficult to clarify the situation because of the great differences in the specific purposes for which government funds have been offered, and the different methods involved. The following suggested guidelines are based on the examination of the purposes for which the WCC has actually accepted or been offered such funds and the specific issues that have been raised by such actions rather than on any abstract analysis of the theoretical questions involved.

On the basis of experience, and after much staff discussion, we submit the following preliminary guidelines which, if approved, might assist us with these issues in future.

1. The WCC can accept government funds only for activities which the WCC itself wishes to carry out, and which conform to its core concerns. The freedom of the WCC in determining programme must be protected.

2. The WCC should first ascertain whether its member churches in the country where the funds are offered (and when appropriate in the country where their use is proposed) have any objection to the use of such funds by the WCC. Objection in either case would have to be treated with the utmost seriousness and be the subject of consultation with those concerned.

3. The amount of government funding should not create an imbalance in programme activities which would distort the WCC programme priorities.

4. The acceptance of government funding should never remove the responsibility of the churches to participate in the activity. Government funding should never be of such a proportion as to threaten the integrity of the programme as a church undertaking.

5. Government funding should be accepted for a specified purpose and limited period only, and should not be used to initiate long-term programmes for which there is no expectation of alternative funding being available.

6. Basic programme must be determined by the member churches and basic administrative budget should be provided by them. Government funds may, however, be used for the salaries of short-term staff or consultants selected by the WCC or appropriate church-related organizations, particularly within approved projects and supplementary programmes.

7. Since the receipt of government funds normally carries the obligation to provide an accounting of expenditures in line with that government's accounting system, a part of the grant should be used, if permitted by the government, to cover the cost of such reporting.